

REMARKS

Claims 2-12 are pending in the present application. Claims 11 and 12 were previously withdrawn from consideration. Claim 8 is herein canceled. Claim 9 is herein amended. No new matter has been entered. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated March 24, 2006.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hatagami et al.* (U.S.P. 6,163,443). To expedite prosecution, Applicants hereby cancel claim 8. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Inaba* (JP 11-134627) in view of *Dakroub et al.* (U.S.P. 6,349,009). To expedite prosecution and clarify the subject matter of the present invention, Applicants hereby amend claim 9 to recite that *said damper being provided on said trunk flexible printed circuit board opposite to said suspension*. In view of this amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the references cited by the Examiner fail to teach or suggest the subject matter of the present invention.

In rejecting these claims, the Examiner concluded that it would have been obvious to have had the disc unit of *Inaba* further comprise a main flexible printed circuit board, connected to the trunk flexible printed circuit board, which comprises a preamp IC, as taught by *Dakroub*;

to have had the constraint layer material of *Inaba* be polyimide; to have had the disc unit of *Inaba* further comprise a spindle motor that rotates the disc at a speed of 10,000 rpm or higher; and to have had the disc storage capacity of *Inaba* be 60 GB or larger. However, Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's obviousness rejection.

With regard to claim 9, *Inaba* fails to teach or suggest *a damper that damps oscillation of said trunk flexible printed circuit board, said damper being provided on said trunk flexible printed circuit board opposite to said suspension*. The Examiner's opinion that *Inaba* discloses a damper as recited in claim 9 is incorrect. For example, *Inaba*'s vibration damper 7 intends to damp oscillation of the suspension (metal plate), not the trunk FPC.

Furthermore, *Inaba* points out a cost problem of the conventional trunk FPC (paragraph [0007], and his invention actually eliminates the conventional trunk FPC (paragraph [0025]). Please refer to the attached computer translation of *Inaba*, wherein the "flexible circuit board for junction" corresponds to the trunk FPC. Accordingly, *Inaba*'s purpose is to eliminate the trunk FPC to reduce the cost of the magnetic disc drive (paragraph [0025]). Whereas, claim 9 recites that the damper is provided on the trunk FPC opposite to the suspension. Thus, *Inaba* actually teaches away from the claimed invention and is not applicable to oscillation damping of the trunk FPC.

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness based on the teachings of the cited art. For example, *Inaba* eliminates the trunk FPC, and none of the cited references disclose or suggest the damper of amended claim 9. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the obviousness rejections and allow these claims.

Application No. 10/606,844
Attorney Docket No. 030776

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Amendment filed: June 26, 2006

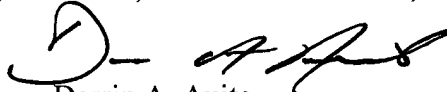
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darrin A. Auito', is written over the printed name.

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